- Aid to organic manure unit @ Rs. 20,000/- per unit.
- Control of sporadic incidence of pests and diseases by adopting integrated Pest Management Practices.

Further, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), is conducting studies to enhance productivity of coconut and has released high yielding and superior varieties of coconut for commercial cultivation.

(d) Government of India has taken following steps to ensure good price of coconut:

(i) Government of India announced the Minimum Support Price for Milling Copra and Ball Copra and procured copra through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), when price fell below Minimum Support Price;

(ii) The Coconut Development Board has encouraged market promotion activities for diversified coconut products to stablise the trend in the price of coconut;

(iii) Productivity increase per tree and adoption of coconut based farming system are stressed in the State for sustainable income per unit area;

(iv) The Coconut Development Board encouraged diversification of coconut products and value-added products;

Attracting Youths Towards Agriculture

1378. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has beaten India in agriculture;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian youths are no longer interested in agriculture; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to attract the youths towards agriculture, so that India can beat China in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) A statement indicating area, production and yield of major crops in China *vis-a-vis* India is annexed. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) The Government of India is implementing various Central and Centrally sponsored Schemes to increase the production and productivity of agriculture and allied activities so as to make it more lucrative and attractive to farmers including Indian youth. Dissemination of latest technology and adoption of scientific agricultural practices is being promoted through agricultural research institutes including Krishi Vigyan Kendras so as to make agriculture intellectually more challenging and economically rewarding.

Statement

Details of area, production and yield of major crops in China vis-a-vis India

	CHINA			INDIA		
Commodities	Area in	Yield Kg/ha	Production 000 MT	Area in 000 ha.	Yield Kg/ha	Production 000 MT
Cereals	93624	4882	457038	10106	2264	230042
Wheat	28823	3969	114400*	27398	2583	70778
Rice/Paddy	31720	6321	200499*	44800*	2929	131200
Coarse grains	33081	4297	142139	29408	954	28064
Maize	25869	4880	126244	6300*	1667	10500*
Roots & Tubers	9326(F)	18831	175627(F)	1694	17532	29700
Potatoes	3202(F)	17288	55354(F)	1300	17308	22500
Pulses, torae	2847(F)	1882	5357(F)	25394	634	16095
Soybeans	8201*	1671	13701	6309	1008	6500
Groundnuts in s	4312	2799	12068	8000*	913	7300*
Sunflower Seed	860*	1802	1550*	2250*	556	1250*
Rape seed	6905	1405	9700	6598	675	5774
Cotton seed			7660			4150(F)
Vegetables			250341(F)			59395
Fruits			59530			38561(F)

Commodities	CHINA			INDIA		
	Area in	Yield Kg/ha	Production 000 MT	Area in 000 ha.	Yield Kg/ha	Production 000 MT
Onion	557(F)	20491	11287	481	11375	5467
Sugarcane	1048	85294	89388*	4150	68012	282250
Jute	66*	2675	176	1200(F)	1742	2090(F)
Cotton Lint	3830	1	440	2074(F)	—	550(F)

F-FA) estimate

SOURCE: FAO PRODUCTION YEAR BOOK 1999 *unofficial figure

IT training programme of IASRI

1379. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) of ICAR is conducting a training programme on Information Technology under a Revolving Fund Project;

(b) if so, the details regarding the number of trainees trained so far, the number of trainees drawn from outside ICAR Institutes/ SAU's and the amounts generated from them during the last two years, category-wise and year-wise; and

(c) whether the above training programme is within the research/ academic mandate of IASRI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the statement. (*See* below)

(c) Yes, Sir.